

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 11603 151833Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EPG-02 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10

ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 COME-00 ISO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5922

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF NORWEGIAN DESIGNEE FOR CHAIRMAN  
OF COMMISSION II, FAO CONFERENCE MEETING, NOVEMBER 1977

FODAG

1. SPECIAL MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND  
OTHER GROUP COUNTRIES MET JULY 14 IN ROME TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMISSION II OF FAO CONFERENCE MEETING, ARISING  
FROM NORWEGIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
HAD DECIDED THAT HE CANNOT SPARE FOR SUCH AN EXTENDED TIME JOHAN  
DAHL, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

2. REPRESENTATIVES UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR  
GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN OSLO URGIN  
THAT DAHL BE MADE AVAILABLE. REPRESENTATIVES OF U.K., U.S., ITALY,  
BELGIUM AND GERMANY SPOKE TO THIS EFFECT, AND NO ONE SPOKE TO  
THE CONTRARY. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE EMPHASIZED STRONG SUPPORT  
SHOWN FOR DAHL'S NOMINATION IN FAO COUNCIL MEETING. U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT FAO CONFERENCE MEETING MAY BE  
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PAGE 02 ROME 11603 151833Z

TURBULENT ONE, AND COMMISSION III IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN  
THAT IS DEALS WITH FAO RELATIONS WITH UNDP AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.  
CHANGING NOMINEE WOULD ENTAIL NEW DISCUSSIONS WITH DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES, AND MIGHT GIVE RISE TO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTIES.

3. THE BELGIAN AND GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES ALSO POINTED OUT,  
HOWEVER, THAT A FALL-BACK PROCEDURE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO

SELECT ANOTHER CANDIDATE IF THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PERSISTS IN REFUSING TO MAKE DAHL AVAILABLE. THIS TOO WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED, WITH THE PROVISIO THAT FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REPRESENTATIONS IN FAVOR OF DAHL, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN CHANGING. NORWEGIAN DECISION ON DAHL COULD BE REACHED WITHIN A FEW DAYS FOLLOWING OUR REPRESENTATIONS, BUT PROCESS OF SELECTING AN ALTERNATE WOULD REQUIRE MANY WEEKS IN THIS JULY-AUGUST VACATION PERIOD IN CAPITALS. GAO PRECEDENTS FOR SUCH CHANGES ARE FOR ALTERNATE TO COME FROM SAME REGION BUT NOT NECESSARILY SAME COUNTRY. NORTH AMERICAN AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC REGIONS DEFERRED IN FAO COUNCIL TO EUROPE WHERE DAHL WAS ORIGINALLY CHOSEN, SO ANY ALTERNATE PRESUMABLY SHOULD COME FROM EUROPE. COORDINATION SHOULD BE EFFECTED IN ROME. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF NORWEGIAN DESIGNEE FOR CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION II, FAO CONFERENCE MEETING, NOVEMBER 1977 FODAG  
**TAGS:** OCON, FAO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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